

3. *A South African Species of Protura*.—By H. WOMERSLEY,  
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(With 2 Text-figures.)

THIS order of insects, first discovered by Professor Silvestri in Italy, has so far only been recorded from America, India, Java, and most European countries.

During seven weeks spent in Cape Town on entomological research on behalf of the Australian Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, intensive search was made for African members of the order as opportunity offered.

It was, however, not until a few days before leaving that, in company with Dr. Lawrence of the Cape Town Museum, I was successful in finding a few specimens in the Orangezicht district of the town itself.

The situation was a piece of vacant land on which were a number of large stones lying in the clayey soil. This type of locality is similar to that in which I have found many species of Proturans in England.

From this locality two specimens were secured, although altogether four were observed. During the next day or two other specimens were seen in a similar location on the lower slopes of Devil's Peak. I was not successful in tubing these.

I have now been able to study the two specimens that were captured, and shall here describe them as a new species of the genus *Acerentulus* of Berlese. Further search will no doubt bring to light other South African members of this interesting and primitive order.

The two specimens will be deposited in the South African Museum at Cape Town.

[ORDER, etc.

## ORDER PROTURA Silv.

## FAMILY ACERENTOMIDAE Berl.

## Subfam. ACERENTOMINAE Wom.

Genus *Acerentulus* Berl.*Acerentulus capensis* sp. nov.

(Text-figs. 1, 2.)

Length (extended in acetic acid)  $1350\ \mu$ . Head  $105\ \mu$  long by  $76\ \mu$  wide, ratio of length to width (Ll)=1.4. Labrum not produced. Pseudocelli large, round,  $10\ \mu$  diameter. Fronto-medial cephalic setae  $14\ \mu$ , basal  $10\text{--}12\ \mu$ .

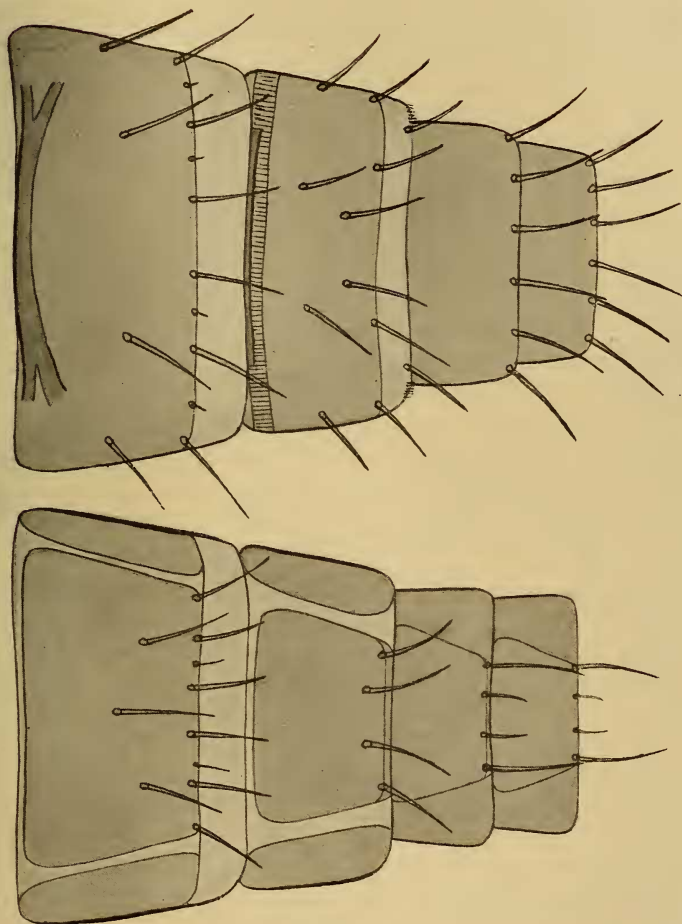
Head generally fairly well chitinised.

Thorax well chitinised. Anterior legs  $225\ \mu$ , tarsus  $72\ \mu$ , claw evenly curved  $18\ \mu$ , tarsal ratio (TR)=4.0, tarsal setae at tip  $30\ \mu$ , middle legs  $150\ \mu$ , posterior legs  $165\ \mu$ .

Abdomen well chitinised, tergal apodemes well developed and evenly curved. Abdominal appendages on segments I-III typical of the genus, anterior pair  $40\ \mu$  long by  $20\ \mu$  wide, with parallel sides. Pectines on segment VIII normal.

Chaetotaxy. This is shown for segments VII-X in the figures. On III-VI it is similar to that on VII. On the other segments it is not sufficiently clear to describe. On tergites IX-X the setae are the usual six, of equal length and twice as long as the chitinised portion. On the corresponding sternites they are four, the outer ones being twice as long as the chitinised part, but the medial setae only one-third the length of the outer setae.

In members of this genus few characters of specific value can be found. Those used in the above description, namely, the ratios Ll and TR and the arrangements of setae on the tergites and sternites, as well as their relative lengths, are of most value and can be considered as reliable.



*Acerentulus capensis* sp. nov.

FIG. 1.—Sternites VII-X.

FIG. 2.—Tergites VII-X.